Reply of Government.—A Bill is now before the Legislative Council to amend the Excise Regulation for the purpose.

SUBJECT NO. 224.

Sale of Toddy and Arrack shops.

Girmaji Rao, Kolar Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—In excise shops Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in the Bowringpet taluk the consumption during the year 1910-11 was 50,616 gallons of arrack and the contractor's profit was estimated at Rs. 40,000 at 12 annas 10 pies per gallon. The rental on these shops is Rs. 88,176 and the contractor must therefore make up the difference of Rs. 48,176 for payment of the Government dues, either by selling arrack at a higher rate or by short measurement, or by dilution. To prevent these irregularities, the arrack shops may be sold at an upset rent to honest men by striking the average consumption for five years.

Reply of Government.—The existence of malpractices in arrack shops is not peculiar to the State and has been found to exist in many places, for example, in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Every effort has been made to minimise such evils; for instance, strengthening the patrol staff, establishing what are called check shops as on the Kolar Gold Fields, and insisting on surprise visits being paid to such shops by the excise staff. The remedy proposed by the member, namely, disposal of shops otherwise than by auction would not bring about the result aimed at, as even then the conditions of sale of liquor would be the same. The Government of India have after careful consideration, decided that disposal of arrack shops on fixed fees is undesirable as it leads to the creation of vested interests and they have recommended the sale of the shops by auction on long term leases. The system has already been to some extent introduced into the State in regard to toddy. The suggestion of the member seems to be impracticable.

SUBJECT NO. 225.

Tree-tax on date trees in inam villages.

(1) Mr. V. Raghavachar, Pavagada taluk, and
(2) Messrs. Madappa and Siddappa, Mysore taluk, and Amble Anniah Pandit, Mysore City Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Nothing has been decided as regards the refund of tree-tax levied on the date trees growing in inam villages. Till definite rules are framed in the matter, the inamdars will be put to inconvenience. It is therefore requested that orders may be issued to refund the amount of tree-tax in accordance with present rules till new ones are framed.

(2) The question of inamdar's rights to toddy revenue has been under the consideration of Government for a long time. Though many petitions have been presented since the year 1897 praying for the payment of the revenue nothing has been done, while coercive measures are adopted for the recovery of any dues from such inamdars

and others. It is therefore prayed that Rule 13 be so amended as to give relief to inamdars.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

SUBJECT No. 226.

Bagani trees on Shiduvali lands.

Mr. T. Narasinga Rao, North Mysore Native Planters' Association.

Summary of discussion.—Land-holders in the malnad may be allowed to tap *bagani* trees on their lands for their *bona fide* use without any loss of revenue to the State.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Vasudeva Rao represented that they did not want the mediation of a contractor in regard to the tapping of bagani trees and desired that at least ten trees may be allowed to each land-holder for domestic consumption including consumption by servants.

Reply of Government.—The last suggestion will be considered in consultation with the Excise Commissioner.

SUBJECT No. 227.

Temporary excise shops during feasts and jatras.

Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

Summary of discussion.—The practice of permitting the opening of temporary shops during feasts and jatras may be put a stop to.

Reply of Government.—Action is being taken. Since 1908 the number of such excise shops has been reduced from 295 to 46 and it has also been ruled that no shop should be located within one mile of a jatra.

SUBJECT No. 228.

Impressed stamp papers for writing *hundis*.

Mr. Singri Chikka Nanjappa, Tiptur taluk

Summary of discussion.—Impressed stamp papers for writing *hundis* may, as in the Bombay Presidency, be manufactured and issued.

The member explained that his representation referred not to *hundis* on demand but to *hundis* in which time for payment is given and produced two small impressed papers in use in Bombay.

Reply of Government.—The question of introducing such small impressed sheets for writing *hundis* will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 229.

Stamp duty in British territory on *hundis*.

Mr. Singri Chikka Nanjappa, Tiptur taluk.

Summary of discussion.—*Hundis* drawn in the Mysore State require to be stamped again when negotiated in British territory. Thus double the duty leviable has actually to be paid. This was represented in the last sitting of the Assembly and the reply was that the levy of double fee would be stopped. It is now prayed that this order may be given effect to.

Reply of Government.—The representation is based on a misapprehension. *Hundis* drawn in Mysore are not liable to duty again in British India.